

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)	Henderson et al.	Examiner:	Bianco, Patricia
Serial No.:	09/994,551	Group Art Unit:	3762
Confirmation No.:	8199	Docket:	760-99
Filed:	November 27, 2001	Dated:	April 7, 2004
For:	IMPROVED NEXT GENERATION AV GRAFT		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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on April 9, 2004
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Kim Tillman

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement of March 18, 2004, applicant hereby elects Invention I, directed to claims 1-31, with traverse.

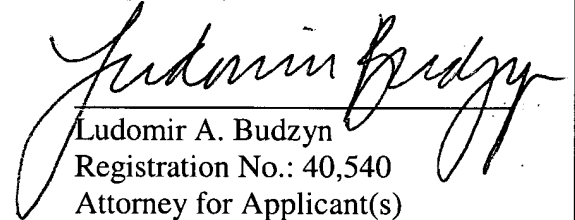
In addition, the Examiner indicated that if Invention I is elected, a further election of species is required. The Examiner set forth a five-way species election requirement, including species A-E. Applicant hereby elects the invention of Species A with traverse; claims 1-5, 12, 13, and 18-20 read on Species A. It is respectfully submitted that Species D and E are searchable with Species A. Figure 1 of the subject application is directed to a ribbed structure, with Figures 3 and 4 showing alternative cross-sections for the rib designs. The same search for the rib structure of Figure 1 would also cover the structures of the Figures 3 and 4 without undue

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burden. It is thus respectfully submitted that the grafts of Figures 1, 3 and 4 constitute one species and that species is hereby elected. Claims 1-13 and 18-20 correspond to the grafts of Figures 1, 3 and 4.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions or if additional information is required, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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